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South Melbourne
Hellas Soccer Club

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EDITORIAL

Excitement on SoccerOz menu



WE'VE all talked about it lately, we've all got our own ideas on exactly what *should* be done; but pretty soon we are going to know just what the moguls of power at Paddington are thinking.

THIS time around the make up of next season's Ericsson Cup is going to be known pretty quick. And that's good news for soccer, a game which has often had to endure last minute policy decisions, or spur of the moment changes.

Sure, it isn't a Five Year Plan, but it IS a step in the right direction.

What I would also like to see at the same time, Mr Hill, is a commitment for the long term future of the A League to be made known to the Australian soccer public. Some seasons ago there were doubts that we could have enough viable teams to ensure a quality competition, and this season has seen the reduction in number to twelve.

I believe that the biggest single thing to come out of that change is to ensure that ALL clubs start to get their houses in order. The move to more professional administration is certainly on the way and that is great news.

But it doesn't make any difference how many teams we have result wise, because the bottom team will ALWAYS be the bottom team, it will always cop a flogging, and there will always be a big gap between the top and the bottom.

The only difference with a bigger league is that there will be more teams at the bottom, a kind of mini

league of lesser lights if you like.

And that isn't a bad thing for the game either.

After all who wants to spend money on the only club at the foot of the ladder, the one who can't beat anyone.

And that is exactly what would happen if we had an eight or ten team league.

So, I predict that Hill & Co will be brave enough to reward soccer, which has had its finest season for many years, with a jump up to not 14 teams, but 16.

The choice of who will fill those vacancies is going to be a hard and emotive issue and one that no sane man wants to make a prediction over.

But I do predict that David Hill might have an easier choice on who to leave out of the applicants by dropping an already established team from the league.

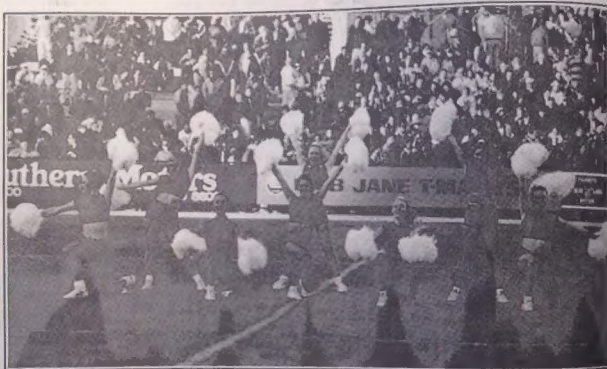
We have to change, we have to gear our game up and if that means making unfortunate sacrifices then so be it.

After all which of those visionaries way back in 1977 envisaged a competition without the likes of APIA, Preston, St George, Sydney City or Footscray?

Times change and this sport has shown recently that it has the intestinal fortitude to change with it.

I predict exciting times ahead and there are thousands out there who agree with me - for it is YOUR attendance at games in increasing numbers which is the signal for better times.

Welcome to the graveyard



THE LAST time that South Melbourne won an away game was way back in Round 3 when we caught the traditionally slow starting Adelaide City having a snooze.

Since then it has been an uphill struggle but salvation has come in the form of an incredible run at the Bob Jane Stadium.

How ironic then, that in the space of seven days that unbeaten home streak was ended by Marconi and then the losing streak was ended in Adelaide, but this time with the Sharks being on the other end.

That sees South Melbourne

climbing another place on the league and sitting in the eighth spot - and poised nicely to climb into the magical placings.

And that could happen as early as this week it, as expected, Melbourne Knights match is postponed because of Socceroo commitments.

Of course, Brisbane Strikers need to be placed on the sacrificial altar but it is all part of the Frank Arok master plan and he generally gets what he wants.

One pre-match request must be for Frank Farina to continue taking the penalty kicks, particularly if

they are as bad as that shocker last Saturday against Wollongong!

But Farina has been in great form this season and his presence will ensure another magic crowd at Bob Jane.

At the end of the day, however, it is points on the board which are more important than crowds and today there are another three vital ones at stake.

Last week teenage starlet Bill Damianos outlined coach Frank Arok's targets for the season and the maestro himself doesn't shirk from that.

"We HAVE to take our home

points," he says.

"I've said this before but I want our magnificent Bob Jane Stadium to become graveyard for visiting teams.

"If we can win our home games then we will make the Top Six - it is as simple as that.

"After that it becomes knockout football and we will have as big a chance as anyone else."

But one doubler who doesn't believe that the Blue & White Army will make another Top Six is Marconi coach, Manfred Schaefer.

Schaefer, a former player under Arok at St George, said on TV's *On The Ball* that he didn't think South Melbourne would make it.

The task isn't an easy one but time should prove Schaefer totally wrong in his assessment.

Ironically, if we re-start our home form tonight against Brisbane we will be doing Marconi a huge favour as it would see a gap open up between them and the Strikers.

It would seem that there are, on

form, a group of four sides who look to be good bets for the Top Six.

Olympic, Marconi and Brisbane Strikers look to be too far out in front for anything, barring a major collapse, to stop them.

Sydney United, despite their miserly points tally also should make it.

That would leave another four clubs (West Adelaide, Melbourne Knights, Adelaide City and South Melbourne) to fight it out for the remaining two places.

Those odds are a lot better than they were a month or so ago and are getting better by the week.

Just now only five points spread the four clubs and South are just one win out of the Top Six.

So who is to say that we won't make it again, and who is to say that we won't make Manfred Schaefer eat his words?

Frank Arok has always said that this league won't be sorted out until March - and that is still two rounds away.

In the meantime the renewed confidence in the South Melbourne camp will ensure that the side is poised to strike.

The next four games are as easy as anyone could ask for in a season in which every game is a tough one.

Tonight's game against Brisbane is followed by an away game to strugglers Newcastle Breakers, the Melbourne derby against out of form Melbourne Knights and then a home against Morwell Falcons.

A target of nine points out of twelve would certainly be enough to lift South Melbourne into the Top Six, but time will tell.

There are a lot of people around who think that the wily Arok's prophecy will prove correct and that Bob Jane will be a graveyard.

It's just a pity that our 'night off' was the night Marconi came to town.

Now we'll have to wait to the play-offs to square up, although there is an away game in April which would be a handy one to win.

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THERE have been a lot of criticisms about the disruption to our national league programme by the recent games against Japan - and now the double-tie against Sweden.

The disruptions do make life difficult for Ericsson Cup sides and for everyone who will argue that the national team must take precedence in all things there is always someone who will put up just as good a case for the priority of the Ericsson Cup, which is, after all, our bread and butter.

The only way Australia is ever to climb the world rankings is by having more games against quality opposition, we all know that.

But the way to ensure that the average fan is going to keep on coming back to club games is if he sees the best players on the park every week and with the right kind of preparation.

Recently Melbourne Knights coach Mirko Bazic allegedly packed it all in



PHOTO: Tony Cavaradin

Let's maximise those disruptions

because his team kept on getting disrupted by national team call-ups.

I suspect that there was a bit more to it than that but he does have a point. South Melbourne, to a lesser degree this season, and a greater degree in past seasons, also suffer. But the club fan will also acknowledge the fact that the credibility of his team's players goes up in direct proportion to the amount of caps that he has.

So how do both sides win? One answer is to have a series of games in a block period, whether it is during the season or after it. That way no side suffers because of player unavailability because all games are off.

But, at the most, that would give us about eight games - and they would all be at home unless, of course, one of those blocks was an overseas tour and then it really defeats the whole purpose of the exercise - which is to ignite greater interest in the game in Australia.

However, the answers speak for

themselves and at the end of the day success, in this game, is measured not by goals but by burns on seats.

Sure, the Wollongong crowd was bigger than that at South Melbourne in the Japan series but then the only reason that Wollongong got the game in the first place is because Soccer Oz knew that it wouldn't draw two blind men and a camel at the SFS.

The other question concerns the credibility of the team which actually takes the field with some pundits saying that our current squad is really a B team. But let's be honest, Eddie Thomson must have a squad of 25-30 players to be part of his World Cup campaign. Of those 30 possibilities how many are actually based overseas?

Are we honestly saying that the likes of Paul Trimball (pictured above) wouldn't get a mention even in a 30 man squad? Let's be serious, the last World Cup campaign proved that our most consistent players were the home based ones. And the man who pointed

that fact out was the same Johnny Warren who said that the locals now aren't good enough.

We have to have mid-season games, that is obvious but let's do three things.

Firstly, let's cut out the double or treble ties. If the opposition need more games to make their trip worthwhile then let's liaise with New Zealand.

Secondly, let's make sure that ALL games are played on a week-end with the entire Ericsson Cup postponed for that night - not just the city where it is played in.

And thirdly, let's experiment by having an occasional game featuring the A League side - wouldn't it be great to see the likes of Mike Smith, Cyrille Ndongo-Keller, Vaughan Covey & Co in an Aussie shirt.

Just for the hell of it I'm going to make sure that Soccer Oz reads a copy of this article. No, let's go one stage better, I'm going to send it personally to David Hill - I'm sure that his reply will be very interesting.

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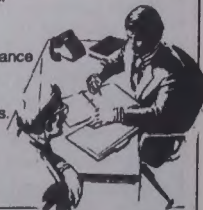
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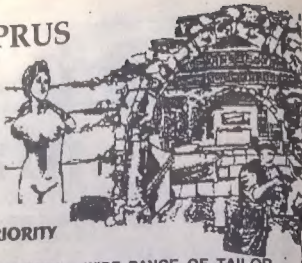
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BANK OF CYPRUS : A HUNDRED YEARS AHEAD

WHEN Kiwi star Vaughan Coveny first came to Australia he didn't know the first thing about the local game - and he is the first to admit it.

"I hadn't a clue," he confesses, "but I'd been told a bit by my New Zealand team mates Clint Gosling and Robbie Ironside and so decided to give it a try. "I wrote away to a few clubs and I got picked up by Melbourne Knights. Then last season I had a spell with Wollongong Wolves. But since then I've learnt that South Melbourne is the Liverpool of Australia - it's just a great club to play with. The atmosphere, the fans, the professionalism - really this club has it all."

The classy midfielder has settled in extremely well at Bob Jane Stadium and his direct running style has made him a firm favourite with the fans, the legendary Blue & White Army which is rated at a goal start by Frank Arok.

And a bag full of goals during the Johnnie Walker Cup helped the Lakeside club to add its second major trophy of the season to an impressive list of former honours.

Now everything in Vaughan's garden really is looking rosy. He's managed to pick up coaching work with Snickers which enables him to be the nearest thing to a full time player that exists in Australia just now.

"I love working with the kids," he says. "When Paul Wade moved to Canberra I got the job as Snickers youth development coach and I am delighted. It's definitely an area I would like to move into when I finish playing because there is only so long in playing the game."

But in the meantime the stylish Kiwi is concentrating on playing the game, and with a vengeance.

His recent form has been closely linked in to the great run by South Melbourne but he doesn't see any great surprises in that.

"You can only be as good as the players around you," he says, "and at South Melbourne we have got a lot of

It's Kiwi Magic

PHOTO: Tony Gavaradinas



very good players. At Wollongong it was hard because there wasn't much depth of talent in the squad but we have a really great squad here.

"All we have to work on now is producing form consistently."

And with Coveny doing his best to produce his own brand of Kiwi magic then there are plenty of thrills and spills in store for the Blue & White Army.

Bruce Campbell



TOOHEYS BLUE

Hot Shots

ERICSSON CUP

THE TOP MARKSMEN

16	Damien MORI (Adelaide City)
15	Kris TRAJANOVSKI (UTS Olympic)
12	Frank FARINA (Brisbane Strikers)
11	Paul WADE (Canberra Cosmos)
8	Francis AWARTTE (Marconi-Fairfield)
8	Andy HARPER (Marconi-Fairfield)
7	Rod BROWN (Brisbane Strikers)
7	Ivan KELIC (South Melbourne)
7	Paul TRIMBOLI (South Melbourne)
7	Jim TSEKINIS (West Adelaide)
6	Pablo CARDOZO (West Adelaide)
6	Bradley HASSELL (Adelaide City)
6	Warren SPINK (Morwell Falcons)

On The Card

ERICSSON CUP

ROUND 21

Friday

Wollongong Wolves v Newcastle Breakers

Saturday

Sydney United v Marconi-Fairfield

Canberra Cosmos v Melbourne Knights

Sunday

UTS Olympic v West Adelaide

South Melbourne v Brisbane Strikers

Adelaide City 5 Morwell Falcons 0

the next

Ericsson Cup Matches at Bob Jane Stadium

v

Morwell Falcons

Wednesday, 13 March 1996

KICK OFF 7.00pm

v

Canberra Cosmos

Sunday, 24 March 1996

KICK OFF 7.00pm

1995/96 SOUTH MELBOURNE STATS

Best Crowd:

13,956 v West Adelaide (Home) - Round 9

Best Home Crowd:

13,956 v West Adelaide (Home) - Round 9

Total Home Crowds:

75,834 (10 games)

Average Home Crowd:

7,583

95/96 Ericsson Cup Top Crowd:

13,956 South Melbourne v West Adelaide - Round 9

*All figures are based on official ASF records and not those reported in the press.

ERICSSON CUP

PLAYER APPEARANCES

08	Alsopp
15	Anastasiadis
15	Anthopoulos
11	Baser
09	Blasis
17	Coveny
02	Curcija
18	Damianos
07	Davidson
05	Duric
16	Kelic
03	Knezevic
17	Kuzmanovic
16	Lewis
02	Lilikakis
07	Mangos
02	Muscat
13	Nikolic
01	Orlic
17	Panopoulos
03	Papadopoulos
18	Petersen
03	Petkovic
13	Shenilovski
19	Trimboli
11	Valkanis

TOTAL: 27 players

GOAL SCORERS:

07	Ivan KELIC
07	Paul TRIMBOLI
04	Vaughan COVENY
04	Steve PANAPOULOS
02	Bill DAMIANOS
02	Agim SHERIFOVSKI
01	Daniel ALSOPP
01	Con BLATIS
01	Michael CURCIJA
01	Craig LEWIS
01	Steve MANGOS



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SOUTH MELBOURNE

THE BLUES SQUAD

- 1 Dean Anastasiadis
- 2 Con Blatsis
- 3 Steve Mangos
- 4 Alek Kuzmanovic
- 5 Mike Valkani
- 6 Con Anthopoulos
- 7 Steve Panopoulos
- 8 Vaughan Coveney
- 9 Paul Trimball (C)
- 10 Ivan Kelic
- 11 Agim Sherifovski
- 12 Bill Damianos
- 13 Craig Lewis
- 14 Michael Petersen
- 15 Jean-Paul Knezevic
- 16 Tansel Baser
- 17 Sasa Nikolic
- 18 Michael Curcija
- 19 Daniel Alsopp
- 20 Michael Liikakis
- 21 Aleksander Duric
- 22 Kevin Muscat
- 23 Michael Petkovic
- 24 Nick Orlic
- 25
- 26 George Tsienakas
- 27
- 28
- 29

BLUE SHIRTS, BLUE SHORTS, WHITE SOCKS

LIKELY LINE-UP

PETKOVIC

BASER

BLATIS

MUSCAT

KUZMANOVIC

KNEZEVIC

PETERSEN

COVENY

PANOPOULOS

TRIMBOLI

ALSOPP

COACH: Frank Arok

LAST SIX LEAGUE HOME GAMES

- v Marconi (11.12.96) LOST 1-4
v UTS Olympic (4.2.96) WON 2-1
v Wollongong City (29.12.95) WON 6-0
v Adelaide City (23.12.95) WON 2-0
v Morwell Falcons (16.12.95) DREW 2-2
v Melbourne Knights (10.12.95) WON 1-0

LAST SEASON:

South Melbourne 1 Brisbane Strikers 0
-- but the Strikers won the away game, 3-1.

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YELLOW SHIRTS, SHORTS & SOCKS

LIKELY LINE-UP

BOLTON

HUNTER

ZORICICH

DITTON

WILLIAMS

FARINA

PHILLIPS

POLAK

T CRANNEY

BROWN

BRAYSHAW

COACH: Bruce Stowell

STRIKERS SQUAD

- Clint Bolton 1
- Chris Zoricich 2
- Craig Williams 3
- Alan Hunter 4
- Stev Jackson (c) 5
- Gary Phillips 6
- Frank Farina 7
- Jason Polak 8
- Rod Brown 9
- Danny Wright 10
- Troy Cranney 11
- Bradley Ditton 13
- Sean Cranney 14
- Andrew Brayshaw 15
- Chay Hews 16
- Glenn Gwynne 17
- Mark Battistin 18
- Reece Tollenaere 19
- Graham Ross 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28


LAST SIX LEAGUE AWAY GAMES

- v Canberra Cosmos (10.2.96) WON 2-1
v Morwell Falcons (6.1.96) WON 1-0
v Newcastle Breakers (26.12.95) DREW 0-0
v Marconi (9.12.95) WON 2-1
v UTS Olympic (6.12.95) LOST 0-1
v Wollongong (24.11.95) WON 2-1

CURRENT FORM: There is some sort of story going around that Brisbane aren't good travellers. But one look at our 'Last Six' chart disproves that and this game is going to be very TIGHT. If new boy Nick Orlic can slot in then he could be the key in a Blues' win, but it will be close. SM 2-1.

EASIER



ERICSSON  **MOBILE PHONES**

BIG MATCH RESULTS

ERICSSON CUP

ROUND 20

Friday

Newcastle Breakers 5 (Thomas, Halpin 3, o.g.)
Canberra Cosmos (Wade 2, Musitano, Kelly, Dunn)
Venue: Breakers Stadium
Att: 2,817 Referee: M Shields

Saturday

Brisbane Strikers 1 (o.g.)
Wollongong City 1 (Lloyd)
Venue: Suncorp Stadium
Att: 5,432 Referee: E Brizzale

Marconi-Fairfield 1 (Bingley)
UTS Olympic 3 (Poimer, Trajanovski 2)
Venue: Marconi Stadium
Att: 11,866 Referee: B Hugo

Monwell Falcons 0
Sydney United 0
Venue: Falcone Park
Att: 2,693 Referee: G Connolly

Melbourne Knights 0
Adelaide City 1 (Hassell)
Venue: Croatian Sports Centre
Att: 4,130 Referee: E Lennie

West Adelaide 0
South Melbourne 2 (Sherilovski, Curcic)
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Att: 5,505 Referee: S Micallef

Vic Health National Youth League

Round 18

North Geelong 0 Springvale City 1
Monwell Falcons 3 Green Gully 4

Round 17

Green Gully 4 Melbourne Knights 1
North Geelong 0 Melbourne Warriors 4
Monwell Falcons 6 Springvale City 1
Port Melbourne 1 Melbourne Zebras 2
South Melbourne 5 Altona Magic 1

Ericsson Cup

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UTS Olympic	20	12	5	3	39	21	41
Marconi-Fairfield	20	12	4	4	38	22	40
Brisbane Strikers	20	11	3	6	35	22	36
Sydney United	20	8	8	4	25	17	32
West Adelaide	20	9	4	7	28	25	31
Melbourne Knights	19	8	5	6	18	13	29
Adelaide City	20	8	4	8	33	27	28
South Melbourne	20	8	2	10	31	35	26
Monwell Falcons	20	7	4	9	23	35	25
Canberra Cosmos	20	5	6	9	33	36	21
Newcastle Breakers	19	2	5	12	20	41	11
Wollongong City	20	3	2	15	15	44	11

3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw

National Youth League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Green Gully	18	13	1	4	44	32	40
South Melbourne	17	11	4	2	50	16	37
Melbourne Knights	17	10	3	4	51	34	33
Bulleen Lions	16	8	4	4	31	20	28
VIS	15	8	3	4	42	21	27
Warriors	16	7	5	4	37	28	26
Springvale City	18	6	6	6	26	37	24
Monwell Falcons	17	7	2	8	50	38	23
Altona Magic	17	4	2	11	16	38	5
North Melbourne	18	1	2	15	9	68	5
Port Melbourne	16	1	1	14	15	37	4

midweek results not included

ERICSSON CUP NOTICE

Entry inside the perimeter fence of the playing area is prohibited at all times and offenders will be prosecuted. All spectators are requested to vacate the ground within 15 minutes of the end of the final game. Police may be requested to remove any unauthorised persons who remain after the stipulated time. The setting alight of, or the lighting or discharging of any type of object, including fireworks, signal or smoke flares, is strictly prohibited.

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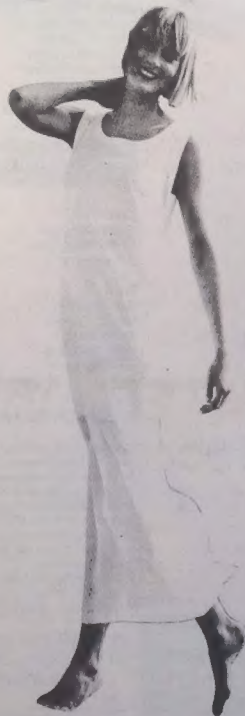
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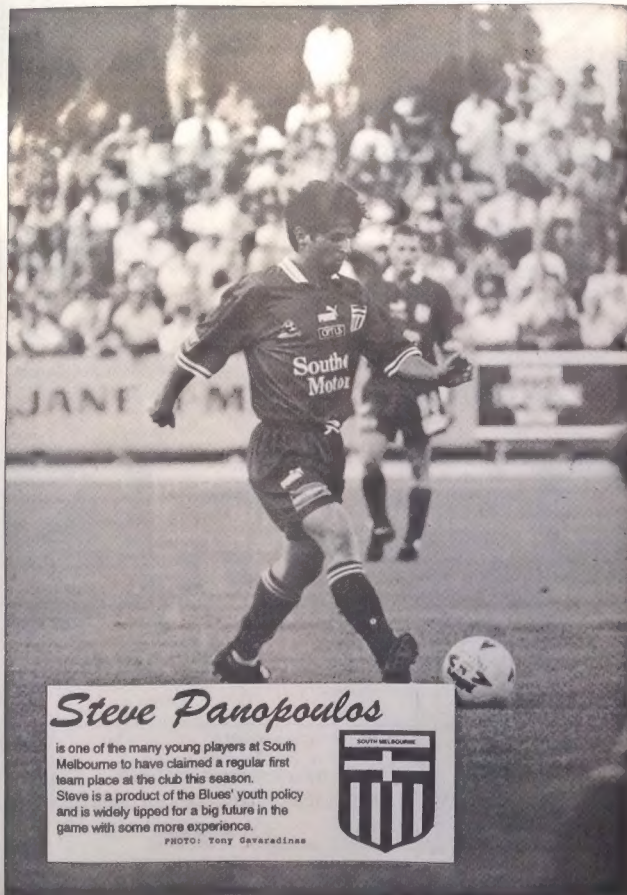
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Steve Panopoulos

is one of the many young players at South Melbourne to have claimed a regular first team place at the club this season.

Steve is a product of the Blues' youth policy and is widely tipped for a big future in the game with some more experience.

PHOTO: Tony Gavarrinas



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A v Melbourne Knights (8.10.95) LOST 0-1
 A v Morwell Falcons (13.10.95) WON 1-0
 A v Adelaide City (18.10.95) WON 2-1
 H v Canberra Cosmos (22.10.95) DREW 2-2
 A v Wollongong City (27.10.95) LOST 0-2
 H v Sydney United (5.11.95) LOST 0-2
 A v UTS Olympic (12.11.95) LOST 2-4
 A v Marconi-Fairfield (18.11.95) LOST 1-3
 H v West Adelaide (26.11.95) LOST 2-3
 A v Brisbane Strikers (2.12.95) LOST 0-3
 H v Newcastle Breakers (6.12.95) WON 3-1



ERICSSON CUP - SECOND PHASE

H v Melbourne Knights (10.12.95) WON 1-0
 H v Morwell Falcons (17.12.95) DREW 2-2
 H v Adelaide City (23.12.95) WON 2-0
 A v Canberra Cosmos (26.12.95) LOST 1-3
 H v Wollongong City (29.12.95) WON 6-0
 A v Sydney United (7.01.96) LOST 1-4
 H v UTS Olympic (4.02.96) WON 2-1
 H v Marconi-Fairfield (11.02.96) LOST 1-4
 A v West Adelaide (18.02.96) WON 2-0
 H v Brisbane Strikers (25.02.96)
 A v Newcastle Breakers (1.03.96)

ERICSSON CUP - THIRD PHASE

A v Melbourne Knights (10.03.96)
 H v Morwell Falcons (13.03.96)
 A v Adelaide City (17.03.96)
 H v Canberra Cosmos (24.03.96)
 A v Wollongong City (27.03.96)
 H v Sydney United (31.03.96)
 H v UTS Olympic (6.04.96)
 A v Marconi-Fairfield (8.04.96)
 H v West Adelaide (14.04.96)
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